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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077909
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: HILEX-8 OBSERVATIONS -- PART I (CIVIL EMERGENCY
PLANNING)

REF: (A) USNATO 2809, 171555 MAR 78
(B) USNATO 2896, 201801 MAR 78
(C) STATE 77839, 250236 MAR 78

1. GENERAL

IN OUR VIEW, HILEX-8 WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN PROVIDING
A SITUATION TO TEST THE ALLIANCE'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 077909

PROCEDURES AT BOTH THE NATO HQS AND CAPITALS. THE US,
LIKE MOST OF THE ALLIES, WILL DOUBTLESS SPEND MANY
MONTHS TAKING PROFIT FROM THE EXERCISE EXPERIENCE BY
MAKING DESIRED REFINEMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS AND REVISIONS IN
PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS TESTED.

IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS PARTI-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

CIPATING, IT WAS FAR AHEAD OF ALL PAST HILEX EXERCISES. AFTER AN INITIAL PERIOD OF CONFUSION AND ACCLIMATIZATION,

MOST PARTICIPANTS CARRIED OUT THEIR TASKS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF COMPETENCE, CONFIDENCE AND CARE. SPECIFIC AREAS ARE ADDRESSED BELOW.

2. RESOURCE PROBLEMS

THE RESOURCE PROBLEMS WERE PROBABLY MORE CONFUSING THAN COMPLEX.

A. GRAIN: THE PLAY OF THE GRAIN PROBLEMS, WHICH REQUIRED MUCH TIME IN PREPARATION, SEEMED NOT TO JUSTIFY THE EFFORT INVESTED. AFTER SUBMISSION OF PRE-PLANNED GRAIN DATA, EVEN WITH AVAILABILITY OF THE GRAIN CONSULTANTS, THE GRAIN PROBLEM APPEARED TO RAPIDLY ESCALATE INTO PRIMARILY A POLITICAL PROBLEM ABOUT GRAIN. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT SOME GRAIN EXPORT DATA REQUESTED FROM EUROPEAN PARTNERS WAS NEVER PROVIDED. IT HAD BEEN INTENDED HERE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF EXERCISE PLAY HE EVOLVINGGRAIN SITUATION WOULD DEVELOP INTO A TRUE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEM, BUT IT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. --

B. PHARMACEUTICALS: PLAY OF THIS PROBLEM WAS HAMPERED
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BY THE TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO ASCERTAIN CLEARLY WHAT DRUGS WOULD SATISFY THE FRG'S CRITICAL NEED. SPECIFICALLY, THE TIME AVAIALBLE AFTER THE FRG REQUIREMENTS WERE FINALLY STATED IN DETAIL DID NOT PERMIT COMPREHENSION OF PROBLEM PLAY BEFORE THE END OF THE EXERCISE. NEVERTHELESS, THE PHARMACEUTICAL PLAY WAS VALUABLE IN IDENTIFYING AREAS IN WHICH ADDITIONAL PLANNING AND STUDY ARE NEEDED.

3. NATO ALERT SYSTEM

THE US REGRETS THAT THE REVISION OF THOSE MEASURES OF THE NCWA ALERT SYSTEM APPROVED IN 1977 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PLAYED DURING HILEX-8.

4. DELAYED RECEIPT OF CIVIL SITUATION REPORTS (CIVSITREP'S)

THE CONSISTENTLY LATE ARRIVAL AT NATO HQS OF US DAILY CIVSITREP'S WAS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE TRANSMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF PARA 5 OF AC/98-WP/107 (REVISED) DID NOT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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SUCCEED, EVEN FOR THE LAST EDITION. THE TIME OF TRANS-
MISSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NATO HQS APPEARED TO BE
INORDINATELY LONG FOR PRIORITY OR EVEN IMMEDIATE MESSAGES.

DTG'S OF DISPATCH FROM STATE OF THE FIVE US CIVSITREP'S
ARE:

A) 130203Z MAR ' D) 160247Z MAR
B) 140206Z MAR E) 170102Z MAR
C) 150236Z MAR

BOTH STATE AND PENTAGON COMMUNICATION CENTERS COULD NOT
IDENTIFY DURING THE EXERCISE ANY CAUSES FOR THESE DELAYS.
WE HOPE THAT HQ NATO WILL ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, AS IT
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PAGE 04 STATE 077909

DID IN THE CRITIQUE ON HILEX-7, AND WE WILL PURSUE THE
MATTER FROM THIS END.

5. EEC AND NATO

THE SIMULATION OF AN EEC CELL WAS EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND
PROVIDED A SUBSTANTIAL BASIS FOR POSSIBLE INCREASED
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE EEC AND NATO. THE
EXERCISE HIGHLIGHTED THE EVIDENT NEED FOR CLOSER COOPERA-
TION DURING CRISIS OR WAR BETWEEN THE EEC AND THOSE
ELEMENTS OF NATO CONCERNED WITH PLANNING FOR THE SUPPLY
AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITIES.

6. CIVIL SITUATION INFORMATION FOR THE DPC, POLITICAL
COMMITTEE AND MC.

DURING EXERCISES OR ACTUAL CRISES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE
CEP DIRECTORATE SHOULD ARRANGE TO PROVIDE DURING MEETINGS
OF THE DPC, POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND MC BRIEF REPORTS ON
THE CIVIL SITIATION, STRESSING CIVIL PREPAREDNESS. THIS
WOULD ENSURE THAT CEP MATTERS COULD BE TAKEN INTO PROPER
ACCOUNT IN A TIMELY FASHION WHEN ADDRESSING THE ALLIANCE'S
TOTAL PREPAREDNESS SITUATION.

7. ABOVE COMMENTS CONSTITUTE ONLY OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS.
WE EXPECT TO ELABORATE ON THEM AFTER COMMENTS OF ALL
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND REVIEWED.

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